

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Immediate Release

**SIX MEMBERS OF THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO BE
HONORED AT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AWARDS PROGRAM**

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - November 17, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that three members of the U.S. Attorney's Office have been selected by the Department of Justice to receive the distinguished Executive Office for United States Attorneys Director's Awards. Attorney General John Ashcroft will present the awards at the 21st Annual Awards Program in Washington, D.C. today at 2:00 p.m. (EST).

The recipients of the awards are: Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) Steven A. Peak, Assistant Chief of the General Crimes Section, and Dan Roetzel, a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney (SAUSA) on loan from the Department of Justice Tax Division, for their Superior Performance as an Assistant U.S. Attorney/Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, and Ray Christensen, Ralph F. Burger, Ronald L. Oliver, and Traci L. Smith for their Superior Performance in a Litigative Support Role.

AUSA Steve Peak and SAUSA Dan Roetzel are being recognized for their exemplary performance

in investigating, prosecuting and convicting more than 30 defendants during a four-year investigation of a major telemarketing organization in Southern California that defrauded more than 3,000 victims. The scheme caused cumulative losses of more than \$49 million through the sale of unregistered, "high-tech," telecommunications-related securities. Steve and Dan handled more than 30 pre-trial motion hearings and presented evidence in a 21-week trial. The lead defendant, Marc David Levine, was sentenced in June 2003 to 292 months in custody and ordered to pay \$49,050,378 in restitution. Dan Roetzel is now an AUSA in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Tucson, Arizona.

Ray Christensen, Ralph Burger, Ron Oliver, and Traci Smith are being recognized for their outstanding support in the Litigative Support Unit (LSU) of the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Diego. Among many other duties, LSU prepares exhibits for more than 125 trials each year. Ray Christensen is recognized for, among other things, his work on the case of U.S. v. Savchenko, a 10-ton cocaine maritime smuggling case for which he prepared a "virtual tour" of the subject fishing vessel. Ralph Burger creates demonstrative evidence for trials and is being specifically commended for his work in the violent crime case of U.S. v. Adams, in which he created an organizational chart and glossary of "gang slang" for the jury. Ron Oliver is being recognized for his innovations in organizing, indexing and digitizing large volumes of data for complex litigation. Traci Smith scanned and indexed hundreds of thousands of pages and input more than 400 documents into the Sanction presentation system for use at trial in the case of U.S. v. Lash, a corporate fraud prosecution involving losses in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Ray, Ralph, Ron and Traci are all commended for their positive attitudes and extraordinary cooperation in stressful litigation circumstances.

U.S. Attorney Lam stated, "I am proud that Attorney General Ashcroft has chosen to recognize six of our employees with one of the Department of Justice's highest honors."